

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2003, the Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 and amended Claims 4, 8, 9, 19 and 35-37. Thus, Claims 4, 7-12, 14-18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27-31 and 33-39 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-15 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pare, Jr. et al., in view of Houvener et al. and further in view of Maes et al. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have been cancelled rendering the objection with respect to these claims moot. Claims 35-37 have been amended to be dependent upon Claim 7 which was previously indicated as being allowable. Claim 9 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of the claims indicated as being allowable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 9, and all claims dependent therefrom, are distinguishable from the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 29-31, 33 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pare, Jr. in view of Houvener. Claim 29 was amended to include limitations similar to those of the claims previously indicated as being allowable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 29, and all claims dependent therefrom, are distinguishable from the art of record and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims are allowable over the art of record and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. D. Walker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian D. Walker
Reg. No. 37,751

Dated: March 2, 2003

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